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FOREWORD

This report on the activity of fishing vessels of 13 m.o.l. and over is based on data collected by local fisheries authorities (fisheries guidance councellors, fisheries boards) in connection with the cost and earnings studies carried out in November 1984 by the Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry on vessels in this size group.

The report has been prepared by Thor B. Melhus. It has been presented to the Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry.

Bergen, February, 1986
Hallstein Rasmussen Gunnar Nybo

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1. Activity Analysis

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1.1 Introduction

Every second year the Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry carries out studies on the activity of all fishing vessels with an overall length of 13 m or above that are listed in the "Registry of Norwegian Fishing Vessels". These studies have been carried out since 1968. From 1968 to 1978 the studies encompassed vessels of 40 foot registered length or over, while from 1980 the lower limit has been changed

to 13 m.o.l. This means that data from 1980 onwards are not completely comparable with data from earlier years.

From 1974 the studies were expanded to also include the period of operation of the vessels.

The unique conditions found in the fishing industry with very seasonal operations, variable weather conditions, failing fish stocks and various forms of stock regulations often mean that a vessel operation can change from year to year. At certain time intervals it is therefore necessary to carry out a complete study of the operation of the registered vessels. The objective of the study is to determine which vessels are operated year round and which fisheries the vessels have participated in during the year. Year round operation is defined as 30 weeks or more fishing operations during the year. For certain groups that have been affected by extensive catch regulations and have therefore had reduced opportunities to fish, vessels that operated for shorter periods have also been included. For example, sprat fishing vessels have a lower limit of 25 weeks operation while purse seiners are listed as having operated the whole year if they have participated in at least 3 seasonal fisheries during the year or operated for at least 25 weeks in two fisheries. Fresh fish trawlers, salt fish trawlers and factory trawlers are considered as having been operated the whole year if they have at least caught the cod quota allocated to them.

The studies are being carried out in close cooperation with the Advisory Service for the Fishing Industry and the local fisheries boards and the data are used in the yearly

cost and earnings studies carried out by the Budget Committee. The results have earlier been published for the years 1974-78 in the series Directorate of Fisheries Reports and Notices No. 1, 1980. The results for 1980 were published in the same series, No. 8, 1981 and the results for 1982 were published in the same series, No. 7, 1983.

The data generated in the studies is very extensive. It contains information on the main fishing gear used, fish species caught, fishing grounds and the time fished in weeks for all registered vessels of 13 m.o.l. and above. The quality of the data can in actual fact be quite variable. This can be seen when comparisons are made between data from this study and those received as part of the cost and earnings study. Even so, the quality of the data for 1984 are considered to be good enough to be published.